

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 SP-02 NSC-05 INR-05 EB-03 L-01 CIAE-00 PRS-01

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O 161610Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6238

LIMITED OFFICIAL OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 0651

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR US UR

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SUBJECT: COMMENT OF EFFECT OF TRADE AGREEMENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) STATE 9431; B) STATE 279785, 12/21/74

1. EMBASSY FULLY RECOGNIZES PURPOSE OF STRICTURES REGARDING SPECULATION ON TRADE ACT CONSEQUENCES AND TRADE AGREEMENT DEVELOPMENTS TRANMITTED REFTELS AND WILL CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THEM WITH CARE. ON BASIS PAST EXPERIENCE AND RECENT OBSERVATION OF LOCAL NEWS CORRESPONDENTS WE SUSPECT PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF COMMENTS DESCRIBED AS QTE FROM AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, US OFFICIALS AND US TRADE OFFICIALS UNQTE TO BE JOHN T. CONNOR, JR., SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, TOGETHER POSSIBLY WITH OTHER US CITIZEN EMPLOYEES OF COUNCIL'S MOSCOW OFFICE.

2. STORIES WE HAVE SEEN BYLINED MOSCOW GENERALLY IDENTIFY CONNOR AS QTE LEADING US TRADE OFFICIAL IN MOSCOW UNQTE AND CONNOR IS KNOWN TO HAVE GIVEN SEVERAL PRESS INTERVIEWS IN PAST FEW DAYS ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF US-SOVIET TRADE AND IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

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3. AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE, WE WILL CONTINUE DISCREETLY
TO BRING TO CORRESPONDENTS' ATTENTION FACT THAT CONNOR IS
PRIVATE CITIZEN AND NOT RPT NOT US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE
AND THAT IMPLICATION HIS REMARKS COME FROM OFFICIAL USG
SOURCE IS UNHELPFUL.

4. IN RESPECT TO STORY REPORTED REF A, NO RPT NO EMBOFF
HAS PROVIDED CBS CORRESPONDENT WITH SPECULATION ON
THIS SUBJECT NOR IN FACT HAD ANY CONTACT WITH HIM AT ALL
FROM SECRETARY'S JAN. 14 ANNOUNCEMENT TO FILING OF
STORY.
STOESSEL

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